

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 95-715-G - ORDER NO. 97-403
MAY 14, 1997

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IN RE: Request of Piedmont Natural Gas Company,) ORDER
Inc. for Adjustment in its Rates and Charges) APPROVING
and for Approval of Revised Depreciation) TARIFF
Rates.) MODIFICATION

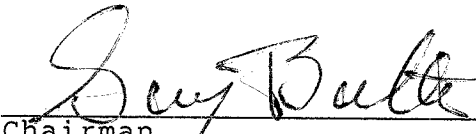
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or the Company) for approval of a modification of Rate Schedule 202-B to include a Company-Owned Facilities Rider to allow placement of Company-owned compressor equipment at customer sites and recovery of associated costs. The current approved 202-B tariff allows recovery of \$25 per month facilities charge and a per therm consumption charge. The addition of the proposed rider would allow placement of Company-owned compressor equipment at customer sites and recovery of associated costs. The revised tariff would enable the Company to pursue efficient application in line with government mandates on alternative fuels. According to the Company, it would also enhance efforts to improve off-peak sales.

S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(G)(Supp. 1996) states that the Commission may allow tariffs to be put in effect without a hearing upon order of the Commission when such rates or tariffs do

not require a determination of the entire rate structure and overall rate of return or when the rates of tariffs do not result in any rate increase to the public utility or when the rates or tariffs are for experimental purposes. It appears to us that in this particular situation, no determination of the entire rate structure or overall rate of return is required, and, therefore, we believe that this tariff modification may be put in effect without hearing. We therefore approve the tariff modification as filed. We ask that the Company file ten (10) copies of the modified tariff with the Commission within ten (10) days from the date of this Order.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)